Computational Thinking: Creating ImpaCTful apps with App Lab

Matt Jensen, St Mary's College Ipswich

This workshop will explore how code.org’s App Lab can be used to support student learning about Computational Thinking and the Digital Technologies Curriculum Years 5-8. Participants will experience the app development process from a student perspective through problem definition and decomposition, user interface (UI) and algorithm design, programming and evaluation. App Lab from code.org is a programming environment where you can make simple apps. It enables the user to design the UI, code in JavaScript and then share in seconds. No prior knowledge of App Lab is needed, but it would be helpful if participants have some knowledge of block or text coding. Participants will need to bring a laptop device and a code.org account would be helpful. Matt Jensen is currently Technologies Curriculum Leader at St Mary’s College Ipswich, a Catholic girls’ school in metropolitan Queensland. He has been using App Lab with Year 7-9 students to teach computational thinking and UI and algorithm design for 2 years. More broadly, Matt’s subject areas include digital technologies, English, drama and business and he brings a wealth of knowledge in using digital learning tools in the classroom.